

## Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-05 IO-10 /034 W

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R 071747Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3621

UNCLAS LONDON 12217

FOR DR. JOSEPH QUINN, FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER,  
NIH, BETHESDA, MARYLAND, AND OES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XG, IS, JA, AS, NZ, XH, TBIO

SUBJ: HEW REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON COMPENSATION TO  
SUBJECTS INJURED THROUGH BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH  
EXPERIMENTATION

REF: STATE 170457

1. OUR INVESTIGATION SO FAR INDICATES THAT AT PRESENT  
THERE IS NO SPECIFIC LEGISLATION OPERATIVE IN THE  
UNITED KINGDOM WITH RESPECT TO COMPENSATION OF SUBJECTS  
INJURED IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH EXPERIMENTATION.
2. THERE IS A STUDY IN PROGRESS WHICH APPEARS TO  
INCLUDE THIS PARTICULAR SUBJECT AS PART OF A MORE GENERAL  
FRAMEWORK OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION COVERING COMPENSATION  
FOR PERSONAL INJURY IN A WIDE RANGE OF ACCIDENTS. THIS  
STUDY IS IN PROGRESS BY THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON CIVIL  
LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION FOR PERSONAL INJURY, OTHER-  
WISE KNOWN AS THE PEARSON COMMISSION.
3. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
HAS SUBMITTED TESTIMONY TO THE PEARSON COMMISSION ON  
INJURIES CONNECTED WITH BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH. IT IS  
BELIEVED THAT OTHER UK BODIES HAVE ALSO SUBMITTED.  
TESTIMONY IN THIS AREA, FOR EXAMPLE, THE MEDICINES  
COMMISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL  
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SECURITY.

4. THE PEARSON COMMISSION HAS NOT YET ISSUED ANY PUBLIC REPORTS AND AT THE PRESENT TIME THE MRC IS UNABLE TO SUPPLY US WITH COPIES OF ITS ACTUAL TESTIMONY TO THE COMMISSION. HOWEVER, THE MRC HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO SUPPLY SCIATT LONDON WITH A SEPARATE STATEMENT OF ITS VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT OF COMPENSATION FOR PERSONS SUFFERING INJURY FROM BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH, WHICH WILL CONTAIN ESSENTIAL MATERIAL FROM THE ABOVE-MENTIONED TESTIMONY. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS STATEMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE BY AUGUST 15. IT WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO NIH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. IN THE INTERESTS OF US/UK COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF NIH COULD SUPPLY LONDON WITH PRELIMINARY DRAFTS OF MATERIAL INDICATING US THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT FOR EXCHANGE WITH MRC.

RICHARDSON

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